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**LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL APPROVES
PARTICIPATION IN MAGLEV DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM**

LOS ANGELES, CA – By a unanimous vote, the Los Angeles City Council voted to participate in efforts to develop the first leg in a high-speed transportation system for Southern California. Today's action represents a significant milestone in the development of an intraregional transportation network based on innovative Magnetic Levitation, or Maglev, technology that has been proposed and analyzed by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG).

The City Council agreed to participate in a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to develop the Initial Operation Segment (IOS) of a Maglev system that would run from West Los Angeles to the Ontario Airport. The City of Ontario and the San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) previously agreed to participate in the JPA that will ultimately implement the system. SCAG has conducted a major feasibility study and pre-engineering analysis of the IOS. It is currently seeking additional funding from Congress to complete the environmental analysis needed before construction can begin.

"We are very pleased with the action taken by the Los Angeles City Council today, and we are excited about the prospects of moving forward with a project that holds such tremendous potential to change the transportation landscape in Southern California," said Ron Bates, Chairman of SCAG's Maglev Task Force. "Today's action has brought us one giant step closer to making Maglev a reality."

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SCAG has long advocated that Maglev is a means of reducing traffic congestion along key freeway corridors, improving air quality, and facilitating the development of a regional airport system. In addition to the IOS, SCAG has conducted similar analysis of future Maglev segments that would connect to Palmdale, Western Riverside County, Orange County, and the Victor Valley. SCAG has included the larger intra-regional Maglev system as part of ***Destination 2030***, the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan that the agency is scheduled to adopt on April 1.

The Maglev system will be financed through a unique public/private partnership, with the private sector ultimately paying for the construction costs. If the funds are secured and the environmental analysis occurs on schedule, the first segment of a regional Maglev system could be completed by 2018.

For more information about the Maglev Deployment Program or ***Destination 2030***, visit the SCAG Web site at www.scag.ca.gov.

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